



Studies in the News for



Children and Families Commission

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News: Children and Family Supplement is a service provided to the First 5 California Children and Families Commission by the California State Library. The service features weekly lists of current articles focusing on Children and Family policy. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/ccfc/>.

How to Obtain Materials Listed in SITN:

- When available on the Internet, the URL for the full-text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact Information Resources & Government Publications at (916-654-0081; csinfo@library.ca.gov).
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Fostering Language Acquisition in Daycare Settings: What Does the Research Tell Us? By Simone Beller. Working Papers in Early Childhood Development. No. 49. (Bernard van Leer Foundation, The Hague, Netherlands) June 2008. 64 p.

[“The ways in which children learn a language - be it their mother tongue or their second language - can have a strong influence on their success in school. Researchers in linguistics and early child development have tried to determine the factors that can help and hinder language acquisition in young children, with some conflicting results. In this article, the author reviews the research and existing theories on language development, focusing on how preschoolers’ social environment affects their ability to learn languages and their subsequent reading and writing skills.... Looking in particular at research on migrant children, the paper explores the course and duration of second language

acquisition, as well as the common linguistic behaviours that may arise.... Finally, the author reviews several programmes aimed at fostering language development and literacy in infancy and early childhood in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Germany, and concludes with a discussion of the implications of the research, providing several recommendations for practice.”]

Full text at:

http://www.bernardvanleer.org/publication_store/publication_store_publications/fostering_language_acquisition_in_daycare_settings_what_does_the_research_tell_us/file

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Training Early Intervention Assistants in California’s Community Colleges. By Diane Hammon Kellegrew, WestEd, and others. Issues and Answers Report. REL 2008-No. 060. (U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Regional Educational Laboratory West, Washington, DC) 2008. 40 p.

[“This study examines California’s efforts to foster preservice preparation of early intervention assistants for infants and toddlers with special needs through the Community College Personnel Preparation Project, a certificate program offered by participating community colleges. The study finds that colleges could develop preservice training programs for early intervention assistants that meet requirements such as those for awarding a Chancellor’s certificate, although not all participating colleges were successful, despite receiving state funding for startup expenses.”]

Full text at: http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/west/pdf/REL_2008060.pdf

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Children’s Readiness for Kindergarten in San Francisco: Results of the Fall 2007 Assessment in San Francisco Unified School District: Comprehensive Report. By Applied Survey Research. Prepared for San Francisco Unified School District and First 5 San Francisco. (Applied Survey Research, Watsonville, California) September 2008. 181 p.

[“Every year, San Francisco teacher Ann Marin watches wide-eyed kindergartners stream into classrooms on the first day of school. Only about half are ready for the academic and social rigors they’ll face that first year. ‘Some kids come in and haven’t held a pencil before,’ she said... ‘And other kids know the alphabet and can write their name.’ Researchers who evaluated 447 of last year’s kindergartners across the district found that while half lack at least some needed skills, 11 percent were deficient both academically and socially. They were the most at-risk for failure now and in the future.... Those who lag on the first day of school still lag three years later, said Lynne Mobilio, director of

research, Applied Survey Research, which conducted the study for San Francisco Unified School District and First 5 San Francisco.” San Francisco Chronicle (September 10, 2008.)]

Executive Summary: 14 p.

http://www.first5sf.org/downloads/SFUSD_readiness07_08_execsum.pdf

Full text at: http://www.first5sf.org/downloads/SFUSD_readiness07_08_rpt.pdf

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“The Developmental Influence of Sex Composition in Preschool Classrooms: Boys Fare Worse in Preschool Classrooms with More Boys.” By Arlen C. Moller and others. IN: Early Childhood Research Quarterly, vol. 23, no. 3 (2008) pp. 409-418.

[“Here’s some news that preschool boys don’t want to hear: Those who attend preschool classes with a majority of girls receive an intellectual boost by the end of the school year. Conversely, preschool boys who attend majority-boy classes fall increasingly behind girls on measures of learning skills and other developmental feats. Yet the proportion of boys and girls in preschool classes has no effect on girls’ development. These provocative but still preliminary findings come from the first large-scale investigation of how the sex ratio in preschool classes influences girls’ and boys’ mental, social and motor development. ‘At the very least, the findings from this study suggest that educators should exercise caution if considering a move toward greater sex segregation in early childhood education,’ says psychologist and study director Arlen Moller of Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. Because so little is known about the influence of classroom sex ratios on preschool development, education researchers approach the new study cautiously. ‘This is an exciting topic, but it is too early to draw any conclusions because this area is so underexplored,’ remarks psychologist Lena Malofeeva of High/Scope Educational Research Foundation in Ypsilanti, Mich.” Science News (July 19, 2008.)
NOTE: The Developmental Influence of Sex Composition... is available for loan.]

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IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

Protecting the Youngest: The Role of Early Care and Education in Preventing and Responding to Child Maltreatment. By Steve Christian and Julie Poppe. (National Conference of State Legislatures, Denver Colorado) 2007. 10 p.

[“Evidence indicates that high-quality early childhood education programs that feature significant parent involvement have the potential to be an effective child abuse prevention strategy. This... report from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) presents an overview of effective programs across the country and discusses the role that State policymakers can play in supporting the development of these programs.

The report cites research showing that early childhood programs can do much to prevent child maltreatment by promoting five key protective factors: parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, and children's healthy social and emotional development.” Early Education in the News (October 20, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://www.ncsl.org/print/cyf/protectingyoung.pdf>

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Predictors of Homelessness and Doubling-Up among at Risk Families. By the Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child Wellbeing, Princeton University and the Columbia Population Research Center, Columbia University. Fragile Families Research Brief. No. 43. (Center for Research on Child Wellbeing, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey) August 2008. 4 p.

[“Family homelessness, particularly as it applies to young children and single mothers, is emerging as an important public policy issue. When considering the effects of family and macro policies jointly, family level factors such as general health, mental health, and domestic violence are strongly associated with homelessness. However, macro factors, particularly those related to housing affordability, are also associated with homelessness and doubling-up. Prevention efforts should target those with the highest risk: native born mothers who do not live with the fathers of their children and who may have health or safety concerns require particular attention. Mothers who cannot rely on meaningful family or institutional support are at particular risk of homelessness. This brief provides a framework for policy makers to take an innovative approach to addressing family homelessness through a variety of preventative measures.”]

Full text at: <http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/briefs/ResearchBrief43.pdf>

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“Predictors and Outcomes of Low-Income Fathers’ Reading with Their Toddlers.” By Elisabeth Duursma, Harvard Graduate School of Education, and others. IN: Early Childhood Research Quarterly, vol. 23, no. 3 (2008) pp. 351-365.

[“Most studies of parent-child bookreading have focused on mothers reading to their children. Though the role of fathers in children’s lives is widely emphasized, we know almost nothing about father-child bookreading, particularly among low-income families. The present study was designed to examine how often low-income fathers report reading to their children and what the predictors and effects of paternal bookreading are. The fathers in this study were participants in the national evaluation of Early Head Start (EHS) and were recruited via mothers enrolled in the EHS study. Participating fathers were interviewed at home and their children’s cognitive and language development were

assessed using standardized measures from ages 2 to 5. Results demonstrated a wide variety in frequency of bookreading among fathers. Fathers were more likely to read to their children frequently if they spoke English at home, if they had a high school education, and if their children had better language skills. Fathers' bookreading predicted children's cognitive outcome. Paternal bookreading did predict children's language outcomes but only for children whose fathers had at least a high school education."

NOTE: Predictors and Outcomes... is available for loan.]

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IMPROVED HEALTH

Health of California's Adults, Adolescents and Children: Findings from CHIS 2005 and CHIS 2003. [CHIS - California Health Interview Survey.] By Sue Holtby, Public Health Institute, and others. (UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Los Angeles, California) September 2008. 112 p.

[“This report provides a summary of the statewide findings from the 2005 California Health Interview Survey, with highlights of changes from 2003 to 2005. Separate adult, adolescent and child findings are presented by age, gender, race/ethnicity, health insurance status and poverty level.... This report begins with the adult findings, followed by the adolescent and child findings.... The age groups for young children vary, but in general the findings are shown for 0-4 year olds and 5-11 year olds.”]

Full text at: http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/Hlth_CAs_RT_090908.pdf

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Trends in the Health of Young Children in California. By David Grant and Samantha Kurosky. Health Policy Research Brief. (UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Los Angeles, California) October 2008. 8 p.

[“This brief examines trends in key health indicators for children ages 0-5 in California between 2001 and 2005, based on data from the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). Conducted every other year since 2001, CHIS is a statewide survey that provides information on health conditions, health behaviors, access to health care, and use of services among children, adolescents and adults in California. Examining CHIS data from multiple survey years provides valuable information on California's progress toward better health and school readiness for young children.”]

Full text at: http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/Hlth_Children_PB_102008.pdf

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2008 County Profiles of Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in California. By California Food Policy Advocates. (The Advocates, Oakland, California) 2008. Interactive map.

[“This interactive map presents information on food insecurity, food and nutrition programs (food stamps, school meal programs, WIC-or Women, Infants and Children food assistance programs) as well as some health indicators (low birth weight babies, overweight, obese adults and diabetic adults) across 58 counties in California. Numbers of those eligible for food and nutrition programs are given, as well as numbers and percentages of people eligible however not participating in the programs. A ranking of counties is given with these indicators, showing how each county compares to each other as well as to the state.” United Way of Greater Los Angeles E-Newsletter (September 15, 2008.)]

2008 County Profiles map:

<http://www.cfpa.net/2008%20County%20Profiles/2008CountyProfileMap.htm>

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California County Scorecard of Children’s Well-Being: Creating Healthier Communities for Our Future. By Jessica Dalesandro Mindnich and others. (Children Now, Oakland, California) October 2008. 28 p.

[“Within the next 20 years, the 10.1 million children growing up in California’s communities will become adults who shape our economic viability, social fabric and civic life. Yet, while the quality of our collective future is determined by the well-being of these children, California’s current patchwork system of supports for them remains inadequate, failing to address all their basic needs.... Enabling all California children to be healthy, safe and ready to learn will require multifaceted solutions and ongoing community- and state-level engagement. The ‘2008 California County Scorecard,’ an online application accompanying this report... supports this long-term effort by highlighting and tracking data that provide a holistic picture of children’s status and unmet needs. It presents information by county in recognition of the richly diverse and unique places that characterize our state.... To provide a comprehensive view of children’s status and needs, this report measures California’s 58 counties on 26 indicators of children’s well-being. These indicators represent a mix of environmental influences and children’s outcomes from birth through adolescence, using survey and administrative data sources.”]

Full text at:

http://publications.childrennow.org/assets/pdf/policy/scorecard08/scorecard08_overview.pdf

2008 California County Scorecard: (Interactive webpage.)

http://publications.childrennow.org/publications/invest/scorecard08/scorecard08_home.htm

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Scientific Peer-Review of the Draft Assessment of Bisphenol A for Use in Food Contact Applications. By the FDA Science Board Subcommittee on Food Contact Applications of Bisphenol A. (U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Washington, DC) October 31, 2008. 17 p.

[“The controversy over the plastic chemical bisphenol A is heating back up, with a panel of scientists criticizing an FDA draft report on bisphenol A safety. Bisphenol A, also called BPA, is a chemical found in polycarbonate plastic - including some water bottles and baby bottles - and in the lining of canned goods. Some research, mostly done on animals, suggests possible health risks from bisphenol A exposure, especially early in life. But an FDA draft report says bisphenol A is safe at typical exposure levels from food and drink. Now, an independent subcommittee has reviewed the FDA draft report, at the FDA's request, and has posted these criticisms: - Some studies were excluded without enough explanation. - Uncertainty in bisphenol A research wasn't mentioned enough. - The FDA's margins of safety for bisphenol A are 'inadequate.' - More attention should have been paid to infants' exposure to bisphenol A.” WebMD Health News (October 29, 2008.)]

Full text at: <http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/ac/08/briefing/2008-4386b1-05.pdf>

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IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

Grandparents: A Critical Child Care Safety Net. By Linda Smith and Mousumi Sarkar. (NACCRRA, National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, Arlington, Virginia) September 2008. 21 p.

[This report “compiles the results of a nationwide survey of grandparents about child care. Through the survey, NACCRRA sought to gain a better understanding of grandparents' involvement in the care of their grandchildren and their individual perceptions and beliefs regarding child care and found that nearly 60 percent of grandparents are either providing care for their grandchildren or have in the past. Not only are they providing regular child care, but they are providing, back up care, sick care, before and after school care, as well as summer care. Additionally, the survey found that grandparents believe affordable child care is a necessity, not a choice. They overwhelmingly support public policies that will both strengthen the quality of child care and make it more affordable for working families. The survey shows that grandparents know how important child care is - both for children and their early childhood development and for parents, who need a safe place where their children can learn while they work or attend school. Efforts to engage parents in advocating for stronger child care policies should also include grandparents, who are natural advocates for their grandchildren and who strongly support strengthening child care policy.”]

Executive Summary: 5 p.

http://www.naccrra.org/docs/reports/grandparent_report/Executive_Summary.pdf

Full text at: http://www.naccrra.org/policy/recent_reports/grandparent_report.php

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Keeping Children Safe: A Policy Agenda for Child Care in Emergencies. By the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. (NACCRRA, Arlington, Virginia) 2008. 36 p.

[“‘Nearly 12 million children under the age of 5 are in child care each week,’ said Linda Smith, Executive Director of NACCRRA. ‘Many of the nation’s 2.3 million child care workers are untrained for disasters and few states require child care programs to even plan for disasters other than fire. To have a comprehensive and viable disaster preparedness and recovery plan in place for child care providers will ensure that child care is no longer an after-thought in the time of crisis.’ The Keeping Children Safe Report is the beginning of a campaign to raise awareness, change policy, and ensure that the child care and emergency management communities can work together to protect the nation’s children during a time of crisis. The Report explains and details many complicated child care and disaster terms and regulations. Additionally, it outlines current child care and disaster policies, local, state, and federal policy recommendations, and next steps on how to move this initiative forward. ‘Children are particularly vulnerable during a time of crisis,’ said Smith. ‘Many are immobile and unable to communicate the most basic information to rescuers. It is paramount that states take heed and develop and enact comprehensive emergency plans to safeguard the well-being of all children and their families.’” NACCRRA Press Release (July 8, 2008.)]

Full text at: http://www.naccrra.org/disaster/docs/Disaster_Report.pdf

Children and Disasters - Disaster Planning Materials: <http://www.naccrra.org/disaster/>

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Child-Care Quality Rating and Improvement Systems in Five Pioneer States: Implementation Issues and Lessons Learned. By Gail L. Zellman and Michal Perlman. Prepared for the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, and United Way America. (The Rand Corporation, Santa Monica, California) 2008. 91 p.

[“As demand for child care in the United States has grown, so have calls for improving its quality. One approach to quality improvement that has been gaining momentum involves the development and implementation of quality rating and improvement systems (QRISs): multi-component assessments designed to make child-care quality transparent

to child-care providers, parents, and policymakers. By providing public ratings of child-care quality along with feedback, technical assistance, and improvement incentives, QRISs are posited to both motivate and support quality improvements. In this report, we summarize the QRISs of five 'early adopter' states: Oklahoma, Colorado, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. We then present results from in-depth interviews with key stakeholders in each of these states, focusing on major implementation issues and lessons learned. The goal of this report is to provide useful input for states and localities that are considering initiating or revising child-care QRISs.”]

Research Brief: 3 p. http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2008/RAND_RB9377.pdf

Summary only: 9 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG795.sum.pdf

Full text at: http://rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG795.pdf

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Study of Market Prices: Validating Child Care Market Rate Surveys. By Deana Grobe and others. Technical Report. (Oregon Child Care Research Partnership, Oregon State University Family Policy Program, Corvallis, Oregon) September 2008. 127 p.

[“Offering guidance to states, this technical report compares the representativeness of child care price findings from various data sources, data collection methods, and sampling strategies commonly used in market rate surveys.... The report concludes with a checklist for states to evaluate the effectiveness and costs of their survey methodologies.” Child Care and Early Education Research Connections.]

Full text at: <http://www.researchconnections.org/SendPdf?resourceId=14724>

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Child Care Funding Sources for California School Districts. By Lisa K. Foster. Publication No. CRB-08-014. (California Research Bureau, California State Library, Sacramento, California) October 2008. 60 p.

["School districts are central players in the child care delivery system: they operate a mix of child care centers and programs, serve a range of children of different ages, and fund their programs from a variety of federal, state, and local sources. This report provides a range of programmatic and fiscal information about the federal and state funding sources for child care that are available to California's K-12 public school districts. The focus is on funding that pays for basic care and supervision, or what is considered the child care program 'slot' or space."]

Executive Summary: 2 p. <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-014-ExecSumm.pdf>

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-014.pdf>

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Options for Improving the Military Child Care System. By Gail L. Zellman and others. Prepared for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. (The RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, California) 2008. 78 p.

[“The evidence presented in this paper questions whether the current U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) system of in-kind subsidies for child care is meeting DoD recruitment, readiness, and retention goals or service member needs in an optimal way. DoD appears to be reaping limited benefits from the substantial subsidies provided to families that use Child Development Centers. Many families cannot or choose not to use the subsidized on-base DoD programs; these families receive no support for child care costs. The authors' findings suggest that the DoD child care system could change in a number of ways to better meet DoD and family needs. First, it could redistribute resources within the current system. Rethinking priority policies from the perspective of both child care need and the degree to which care characteristics fit with likely DoD and service member needs would be another important way to change the system. DoD may also wish to expand the child care benefit to cover more military families and a broader set of child care needs. Alternatively, DoD could expand access to child care through the use of cash benefits, vouchers, and/or negotiated discounts with local providers that meet quality standards, while continuing to provide some amount of DoD Family Child Care homes and Child Development Center care.” RAND.]

Research Brief: 3 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2008/RAND_RB9363.pdf

Summary only: 8 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2008/RAND_OP217.sum.pdf

Full text at: http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2008/RAND_OP217.pdf

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STUDIES TO COME

[The following studies, reports, and documents have not yet arrived. California State Employees may place requests, and copies will be provided when the material arrives. All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.]

IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

“Expanding the Reach of Preventive Interventions: Development of an Internet-Based Training for Parents of Infants.” By Edward G. Feil, Oregon Research Institute, and others. IN: Child Maltreatment, vol. 13, no. 4 (November 2008) pp. 334-346.

[“There are major obstacles to the effective delivery of mental health services to poor families, particularly for those families in rural areas. The rise of Internet use, however, has created potentially new avenues for service delivery, which, when paired with the many recent advances in computer networking and multimedia technology, is fueling a demand for Internet delivery of mental health services. The authors report on the adaptation of a parenting program for delivery via the Internet, enhanced with participant-created videos of parent-infant interactions and weekly staff contact, which enable distal treatment providers to give feedback and make decisions informed by direct behavioral assessment. This Internet-based, parent-education intervention has the potential to promote healthy and protective parent-infant interactions in families who might not otherwise receive needed mental health services.” NOTE: Expanding the Reach of Preventive... will be available for loan.]

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CONFERENCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

American Montessori Society 2008 Fall Conference. Montessori: Excellence in Action. Sponsored by American Montessori Society. November 13-16, 2008. Garden Grove, California.

[“The AMS Fall Conference offers more than 80 workshops for Montessori educators who teach children at the Infant/Toddler stage through Secondary education. Programming is also included for teacher educators, heads and administrators, parents and general audience members. The conference includes an exhibit hall featuring vendors providing Montessori classroom materials from books to furniture.” ChildCareExchange.com (November 2008.)]

For more information and to register: <http://www.amshq.org/conference2008fall.htm>

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All Hands in the Dirt: A Forum on the Design of Children’s Outdoor Spaces. Sponsored by the Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds. November 13-15, 2008. Toronto Botanical Garden, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

[“Where do children play? Too often it is indoors or on the barren grounds of daycares and schools. Now, though, there is a growing movement among landscape designers, architects, teachers, principals, parents and others to change this. Want to learn more? Join Evergreen for a vibrant forum in Toronto focusing on the design of healthy, natural and creative children's outdoor spaces. Open to the public for the first time, our annual gathering will connect you with designers, researchers and educators. The result will be a lively exchange of knowledge that concentrates on daycare sites and school grounds that meet the challenges of safety and sustainability. You will leave motivated and inspired to create dynamic landscapes for children in your community.”]

For more information and to register: <http://www.evergreen.ca/en/lg/allhands2008.html>

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Young Parents Demonstration Grants. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. Application deadline: November 17, 2008.

[“The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announces the availability of approximately \$5 million to fund demonstration grants that target the employment and training needs of young parents. The Young Parents Demonstration program is to provide educational and occupational skills training leading to family economic self-sufficiency to both mothers and fathers, and expectant mothers ages 16 to 24. Projects funded will be encouraged to serve young parents in high-risk categories, including those who are court-involved, in the child welfare or foster care system, homeless, or victims of child abuse.”]

For more information: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-23319.pdf>

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